

Log Barn
Route 6, near Lyman Run Road,
Potter County, Pennsylvania

HABS No. Pa.-5127

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 5-Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey
J. Howard Hicks, District Officer
134 East 10th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania

LOG BARN
ROUTE 6, NEAR LYMAN RUN ROAD, BEYOND SWEDEN VALLEY,
POTTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Owner

George Sykes of Bradford, Pennsylvania.

Date of Erection

1900.

Architect

None.

Builder

Charles Bailey.

Present Condition

Poor.

Number of Stories

Height 25'.

Materials of Construction

Beach, birch and hemlock. Logs and boards.

Other Existing Records

Information and personal recollections furnished by Mr. and Mrs. William B. Button, Mr. William Brown and Mr. Joel Brown. Photographs, drawings, personal interviews and inspection.

Additional Data

Bibliography-History of Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter published by J. H. Beers and Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1890.

An illustrated History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by William H. Egle, M.D., published by DeWitt C. Goodrich and Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1876, County of Potter.

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Potter County is the paradise of hunters. It is also hilly and has several unique features of nature, one of which is the famous Ice Mine where ice is made naturally in summer. To get to the Log Barn from Coudersport, Potter County, Pennsylvania you must pass directly through Sweden Valley and near to the Ice Mine, then go down a very long five mile hill.

The Log Barn is located on the right hand side of the road, quite close to Lyman Run, and just a few feet farther from Lyman Run Road. The Barn is placed about fifteen feet from the edge of the pavement, the side of the barn parallel with the road. It is built on the same style as hundreds of other barns are built in this part of Pennsylvania with a gambrel roof, however, it probably is the only one with the lower part built of logs in the style of 1800.

The farm, or lot as the residents of Potter County call a fifty acre farm, where the barn stands, was densely wooded fifty years ago. Sometime before 1900 Gene Crosser started to cut the timber. He finally cleared the farm, and while doing so, Charles Bailey selected what logs he needed from the cutting and built the barn. Mr. Bailey owned the farm until recently when George Sykes, of Bradford, Pennsylvania bought it. Mr. Bailey lived on the farm until about twenty years ago, when Mrs. Linna A. Button became a tenant. She with her present husband, William B. Button are said to have a life lease on the property.

On the next farm beyond the Log Barn, Mr. and Mrs. William Brown and son Joel live. Mr. Joel Brown corroborated his father's statement that the Log Barn was of recent erection. He said, "I am 52 years old and I remember when the barn was built, I was just 16 years old." This statement fixes the date of the building of the barn as of 1900. Mr. William Brown, who appeared to be at least 80 years old, seemed to be unable to fix an exact date, but remembered that it had been built after he came into the neighborhood. Mrs. Brown, a very nice old lady said nothing. Further research elicited the fact that this barn was built as a replica of a former barn which Mr. Bailey had known about, in another neighborhood.

The materials used in the barn are beech, birch and hemlock woods. The initial purpose of building ~~was~~ was to hold a larger quantity of hay.

The length of the barn is 43' 8", the width is 29' 10" height from grade to peak is 25' 0". The log structure is about 8 logs

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high. The logs vary in size from the largest at the bottom tapering to smaller ones at the top, diminishing in size. The two interlocking logs at corners are each grooved with circular grooves, cut with ax or adze. The joints between the logs were filled with a mud or clay mixed with lime mortar. The ends of the logs are sawed straight, overhanging, and vary from 1' at the bottom to 9" at the top. The logs are badly rotted in several places.

The interior part of the building is constructed with a truss, a tie beam and a collar beam built in truss form to stiffen the building. The height from grade to under side of tie beam is 6' 8". Cross braces on the tie beam stiffen the truss, they are doweled to tie beams with wooden dowels.

The rafters are 2" x 4" with 18" center to center. On the top of the 2" x 4" rafters are straight sheeting boards with 7/8" boards used as shingles. These shingles are from 1' to 2-1/2' long and about 8" wide and 7/8" thick near the bottom of the roof, tapering to smaller ones near the break. The upper part above the break is standard wooden shingles. The two gambrel ends of the gable above the logs are covered with vertical boards 1" x 8".

The front of the building has two old window frames which are boarded up. Double doors to front and rear, the rear doors boarded up, a small door at the east end or elevation, with 1" vertical batten boards on hinges opening outward.

While this barn is of comparative recent construction, it makes an impression of age-old structures. It is possible that some of the logs might have been used in some former barn or house, however being of birch and beech, it is also quite possible that it was a hastily constructed structure, and that the logs were not carefully selected for wearing qualities. It is in a dilapidated condition, the roof leaking and several of the logs being rotted. The barn was filled with hay making it impossible to obtain the interior plans except for a very few feet, however what was in sight was very interesting construction.

Annie Scott Baxter

Approved

Howard Hicks
District Officer

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T.W.